

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 9-20 are pending in the present application. Claims 6-8 were previously canceled, and claims 21-22 are canceled herein. Claims 1 and 16 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims in view of the following remarks.

Claims 1-5, 9-11, 13, 14 and 16-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Singh (U.S. Patent No. 6,479,820, hereinafter "Singh") in view of Hyon (U.S. Application Publication No. 2004/0072108, hereinafter "Hyon"). Other dependent claims have been rejected over these references in combination with additional prior art. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Claim 1, as amended, specifically recites that "the cationic surfactant is tetradecyltrimethylammonium bromide (TTAB)." It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references discloses TTAB at all and in any case not for use as a cationic surfactant in processes as defined in claim 1 of the present application. While Liu, which was cited against claims 21 and 22, discloses dodecyltrimethylammonium bromide (DTAB), it does not disclose the use of TTAB as a cationic surfactant. Further, it would not be an obvious variant.

Claims 2-5 and 9-15 depend from claim 1 and add further limitations. It is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims are allowable by reason of depending from an allowable claim as well as for adding new limitations.

Claim 16, as amended, specifically recites that "the cationic surfactant is tetradecyltrimethylammonium bromide (TTAB)." As discussed above with respect to claim 1, the references of record, taken alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest TTAB. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 16 is allowable over the references of record.

Claims 17-20 depend from claim 16 and add further limitations. It is respectfully submitted that these dependent claims are allowable by reason of depending from an allowable claim as well as for adding new limitations.

Applicant has made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Ira S. Matsil, Applicant's attorney, at 972-732-1001 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible. No fee is believed due in connection with this filing. However, should one be deemed due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge, or credit any overpayment, Deposit Account No. 50-1065.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

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